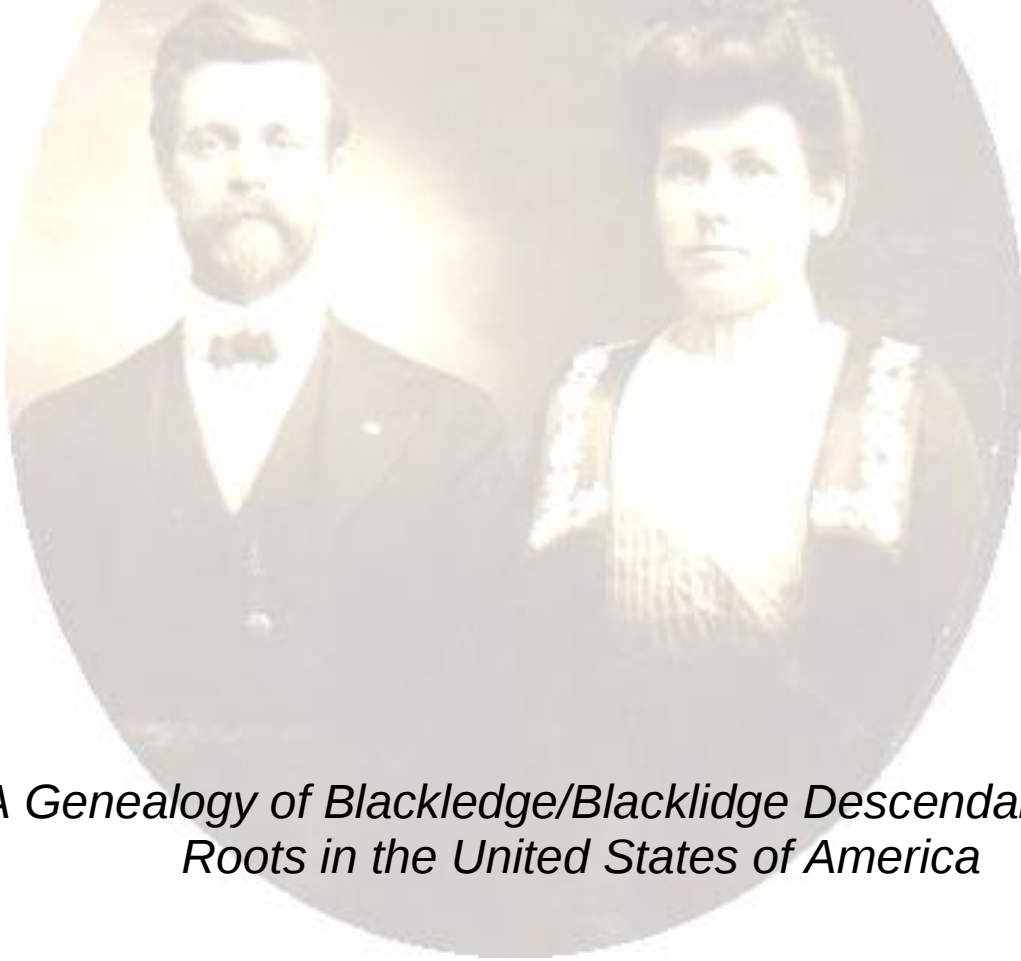


Blackledges In America

(Second Edition)



*A Genealogy of Blackledge/Blacklidge Descendants with
Roots in the United States of America*

Compiled By

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Lewis (H) Blackledge [5:1013] and Margaret Edith Lawrence [Sp1:5:1013]

Photo courtesy Phyllis Turnure Pearson [5:3205].

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Lux et Perseverantia



Historic Meeting in Gaithersburg: The only meeting of the three compilers took place in Gaithersburg, MD, in Oct 1996. From this humble beginning began the six year quest to bring this *Magnum Opus* to fruition; the Second Edition took an additional decade.

From left: Michael Allan Blackledge [5:3210]; Mary Ann (Ryza) Blackledge [Sp:5:4112]; David William Blackledge [4:1862].

"It is a revered thing to see an ancient castle, not in decay.

But how much more it is to behold an ancient family,

which has stood against the waves and weathers of time."

Francis Bacon

Blackledges in America

Preface to the Second Edition

“Welcome. And congratulations. I am delighted that you could make it. Getting here wasn’t easy, I know. In fact, I suspect it was a little tougher than you realize. ... Not only have you been lucky enough to be attached since time immemorial to a favored evolutionary line, but you have also been extremely – make that miraculously – fortunate in your personal ancestry. Consider the fact that for 3.8 billion years, a period of time older than the Earth’s mountains and rivers and oceans, every one of your forebears on both sides has been attractive enough to find a mate, healthy enough to reproduce, and sufficiently blessed by fate and circumstances to live long enough to do so. Not one of your pertinent ancestors was squashed, devoured, drowned, starved, stranded, stuck fast, untimely wounded, or otherwise deflected from its life’s quest of delivering a tiny charge of genetic material to the right partner at the right moment in order to perpetuate the only possible sequence of hereditary combinations that could result – eventually, astoundingly, and all too briefly – in you.”

From Introduction, “A Short History of Nearly Everything”, ©2003 by Bill Bryson.

It does seem somewhat miraculous that all of us have arrived at this point, given the odds against us. And the Team of Compilers of *“Blackledges in America: A Genealogy of Blackledge/Blacklidge Descendants with Roots in the United States of America”* at times wondered if this Second Edition would ever be produced. But here we are, after a long and involved journey, during which so many have contributed to making this edition happen.

The Compilers were thrilled with the response to the First Edition: the most extensive genealogy ever of the Blackledge/Blacklidge family in America. A limited edition was printed in November 2002, and all 200 copies were distributed in less than a year. A second printing was required. Five genealogy libraries purchased one or more copies, and the reprints permitted the compilers to place additional copies in other select libraries.

That original project had grown to involve more work than any of us imagined at the outset. The effort grew over its six-year gestation period to finally weigh in at 953 pages. However, as editor of that rather overwhelming effort, I realized that we had left out important material. Thus when contributors requested a follow-on volume, the concept was readily embraced. My sole regret after editing the original volume was that I did not insert more pictures. Photos and other graphic images provide a window to our past. They typically are added last in the editing process and, to take advantage of the pre-Christmas 2002 publishing window of opportunity, we simply ran out of time. This Edition has all the photos of the First Edition, plus many additional photos and even photo pages displaying contributions by our many readers and researchers.

Why a Second Edition? One of the expected outcomes of publishing any genealogy is a collection of errata for the book: some additions, some corrections. Contributors and relatives that we had never contacted or did not know, began to emerge. Many purchasers offered not only additional text, but also photographs of ancestors and family members. As early as July 2003, contributors were lobbying for a follow-on volume, primarily for photos. Those requests eventually grew to become *“Blackledges in America – Second Edition.”*

This project originally was envisioned as a slim companion volume to the First Edition, having a minimum of narrative, primarily referencing the chapter, descendant name, and descendant number as found in the original book and as described in Chapter 1 of that book. The idea was to seek photos of Blackledge family interest; e.g., identifiable individuals, spouses, families, homes and businesses. The photos would be integrated with the text portion to resemble the original book in its layout. However, it soon became clear that a simple companion volume of photos and errata would not suffice – the revisions and additions required a second edition to include errata, new history and documents, updates, corrections, and historical information on the families.

The compilers gathered not only genealogical information but also some understanding as to whether to publish this work as a hardcover second book or as electronic files on a CD. Once the project grew past 1500 pages, we knew at least two volumes would be required if we were to go hard copy. To facilitate wide distribution, an electronic publication began to make sense.

All interested parties were invited to submit candidate photographs, corrections, and additional text for consideration in this project. The goal was to not only include all known corrections but also all known additional descendants and new branches that met our original criteria of three or more generations. While the additional photographs found in this volume will be especially welcomed by individuals who were fortunate enough to secure First Edition copies of *Blackledges in America*, we expect that its most valuable and lasting contribution will continue to be the genealogical record to assist future researchers. Unfortunately some prior compilers ended their records as of decades earlier with a dismissive notation to the effect that “facts about subsequent generations are readily available.” We have striven to avoid that limitation here.

All submissions were welcome. Many, many people contributed. Our source citations reference most of these; additionally we recognize significant contributions to Chapter 4 (Philip and Descendants) by Charma Blackledge Owens; to Chapter 5 (William and Descendants) by the late Wilma Grace Blackledge Herreid and the late Florence Sylvia Blackledge Curtis; to Chapter 6 (Zachariah and Descendants) by Linda Grace Talbot; and to Chapter 7 (Other Blackledge Families) by Thomas L. “Roy” Blackledge. To all the contributors we say: Thank you so much! We greatly appreciate your support and your assistance in this project.

Finally, I must recognize our Team. Their consummate professionalism and dedication to the project is evident in this Edition, as it was in the First. To David W. Blackledge of Carlisle, PA and Mary Ann Ryza Blackledge of Grants Pass, OR, it has indeed been an honor and a pleasure to work with you for these seventeen years. You are family, in the finest sense of the word.

It is entirely possible that someone, someday will pick up this work and generate a Third (or Follow-on) Edition – thus we would greatly appreciate receiving any corrections and additions (and documented sources) concerning the presented information. Lastly, as with the original work, we dedicate this follow-on edition to those who have and are to come after us - our grandchildren and their descendants. We have continued to record this history so that they may know from whence they came.

Michael Allan Blackledge
Albuquerque, NM, USA
30 May 2013

Preface to the First Edition

Humans are the only creatures who dream, plan, set goals and achieve them. And it is only we who can record our dreams, and maintain a history of plans and achievements of those that came before us.

- Michael A. Blackledge

How often have I read at the beginning of a family history book that the author never imagined that their research would develop into such a long-running project. That, too, was my experience when I finally began to unravel the mysteries of my husband's family history in 1988. Little did I realize that what was a mild curiosity would develop into a passion that would result in this record by three Blackledge/Blackledge/Blackledge researchers.

There are several major branches of Blackledges in America that date back to the 1600s and early 1700s. While trying to sort out my husband's family, I soon began collecting data on any Blackledge since I was "stuck" at his great grandfather, Cyrus Blackledge. In 1993, after writing many, many letters and making trips to numerous places in Pennsylvania (we lived in Maryland at the time), I met and exchanged data in Carlisle, PA, with David W. Blackledge who had begun his research in the 1960s while pursuing his masters degree. But, the overriding question of my husband's Blackledge line remained unanswered. By that time, by the process of elimination, I had a pretty good idea of the family line, but no confirmation.

Then, in early 1994, one of my letters of inquiry was answered by Michael A. Blackledge of Albuquerque, NM. Mike had inherited the research records dating from the 1940s of his uncle, Hobert Lee Blackledge of Kearney, NE. In those records, he found a letter from one of my husband's great uncles which confirmed the line I had suspected. My gratitude to Hobert Blackledge and other researchers who persisted in collecting data *and* saving it, is unending. Not all questions were answered, but the general family line was now known.

By that time, the three of us - myself, Dave and Mike - were truly caught up in the delights of discovering family history. We all worked full-time and so had limited time to devote to research, but, we knew it would help future researchers if we pooled and published our information. And so, in October 1996, the three of us met and formulated the framework for this record. Subsequent meetings, phone calls and e-mail communications enabled us to bring the project to fruition. Through the persistent and patient leadership of Mike, our team editor, Dave and I have learned more than we ever thought we needed to know about computers. We all have weathered through a series of drafts and still remain friends.

To acknowledge all those who have contributed to this record would be futile, but there are certain persons and organizations which have been outstanding. First, we must express our gratitude to our spouses: John Blackledge, Nan Blackledge, and Helen Blackledge. Their patience while we struggled with this work can never be repaid. With gratitude we remember Hobert Lee Blackledge of Kearney, Nebraska who in about 1944 created an unpublished record

titled *"The Blackledges in America"* which built upon information collected by his mother, Margaret Edith (Lawrence) Blackledge; and W. E. Blackledge of Kokomo, Indiana who published the *"History of Blackledge Family"* booklet in 1921 and maintained its currency for years with handwritten notes. We acknowledge John Shirk Coffin who provided access to the meticulous records of his father, Kenneth Coffin, who had continued to build upon the research done by W. E. Blackledge. Kent Hackleman Blackledge II generously shared the contents of the files he had inherited from W. E. Blackledge. We remember the patient kindness of persons like Marilee Hageness, one of my earliest correspondents, who introduced me to the basics of genealogy such as what an SASE is; and Lois Hemming who at the time maintained the Carroll County (Ohio) Genealogical Society's library in her home and spent more than one afternoon with me and answered many questions by mail.

We thank Dr. Gale Ion Harris whose scholarly works, *"John Blackleach, Merchant of Boston and New England"* and *"Richard Blackleach of Stratford, Connecticut"*, published by the New England Historical Genealogical Society provided much of the information on early Blackledges for Chapter 3.

We are grateful to the staff members of many libraries and societies across the country including The National Archives; the Library of Congress, and the DAR Library in Washington, DC; the Family History Centers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; the Spruance Library, Bucks Co, PA; the Quaker Library at Swarthmore College in PA; the New England Historical Society Library, Boston, MA; the Historical Society of Pennsylvania Library, Philadelphia, PA; Citizens Library, Washington, PA; the Cornerstone Genealogical Society, Greene County, PA; the Carroll County [Ohio] Genealogical Society; Schiappa Memorial Branch Library, Steubenville, OH; the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN, the Rush County [Indiana] Public Library; and the Rush County Historical Society, Rushville, IN.

The contributions of all our friends and family members who made this book possible are appreciated. The replies by numerous family members to requests for information over the years kept the authors inspired and motivated. Linda Grace Talbot is recognized as a major contributor to Chapter 6, *Zachariah Blackledge*. We also express our gratitude to Michelle Weiss of the Albuquerque Genealogical Society whose desktop publishing guidance strongly affected the format of the book. Nicole Shenk and Scott Childress provided invaluable computer and software assistance in Carlisle.

Lastly, we dedicate this volume to those who have and are to come after us - our grandchildren and their descendants. This history has been recorded so that they may know from whence they came. We would greatly appreciate receiving any corrections and additions (and documented sources) concerning the presented information.

Mary Ann (Ryza) Blackledge

16 June 2002

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